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Johnson & Johnson Sues Researchers Who Linked Talc to Cancer + More

The Defender's Big Pharma Watch delivers the latest headlines related to pharmaceutical companies and their products, including vaccines, drugs, and medical devices and treatments. The views expressed in the below excerpts from other news sources do not necessarily reflect the views of The Defender. Our goal is to provide readers with breaking news that affects human health and the environment.

By The Defender Staff

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Johnson & Johnson Sues Researchers Who Linked Talc to Cancer

Reuters reported:

> Johnson & Johnson has sued four doctors who published studies citing links between talc-based personal care products and cancer, escalating an attack on scientific studies that the company alleges are inaccurate.
>
> J&J's subsidiary LTL Management, which absorbed the company's talc liability in a controversial 2021 spinoff, last week filed a lawsuit in New Jersey federal court asking it to force three researchers to "retract and/or issue a correction" of a study that said asbestos-contaminated consumer talc products sometimes caused patients to develop mesothelioma.
>
> J&J is facing more than 38,000 lawsuits alleging that the company's talc

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products, including its Baby Powder, were contaminated by asbestos and caused cancers including ovarian cancer and mesothelioma. J&J is attempting to resolve those lawsuits, as well as any future talc lawsuits, through an $8.9 billion settlement in bankruptcy court.

J&J says that its talc products are safe and do not contain asbestos. J&J has stopped selling talc-based Baby Powder in favor of cornstarch-based products, citing an increase in lawsuits and "misinformation" about the talc product's safety.

Uninsured U.S. Patients Pay up to $330 for Eli Lilly's $25 Insulin, Senator Warren Says

Reuters reported:

Americans without health insurance pay an average of $98 for Eli Lilly's generic insulin despite the company's May 1 pledge to cut its list price to $25 per vial, according to a survey of more than 300 U.S. pharmacies by U.S. Senator Elizabeth Warren's office released on Thursday.

Warren's survey of chain and independent pharmacies across all 50 states, carried out between June 9 and 28, found a third of drug stores charged $164 or more to uninsured patients for Lilly's Insulin Lispro. The highest-priced pharmacy wanted $330.

Lilly (LLY.N), Novo Nordisk (NOVOb.CO) and Sanofi (SASY.PA), which dominate the insulin market, announced in March that they would slash their insulin prices by at least 70% later in the year.

Americans with insurance typically pay a fraction of the list prices for prescription drugs, but uninsured people sometimes have to pay the full price, forcing some to ration or skip taking their medicine.

London at Risk of Major Measles Outbreak, U.K. Health Security Agency Warns

The Guardian reported:

London is at risk of a major measles outbreak that could result in tens of thousands of cases, the U.K. Health Security Agency has warned.

Without an improvement in MMR vaccination rates, the capital could experience an outbreak of between 40,000 and 160,0000 cases, a fresh analysis by the UKHSA suggests. Experts said an outbreak of this scale could lead to dozens of deaths and thousands of people hospitalized.

Official data published on Friday revealed a steady rise in measles cases this year, indicating a resurgence of the illness. Between January 1 and June 30 this year, there have been 128 cases of measles, compared with 54 cases in the whole of 2022, with 66% of the cases detected in London, although cases have been seen in all regions.

How Can We Fix Drug Shortages? Let's Start by Re-Examining Big Pharma's Relationship With Wall Street

Forbes reported:

According to the FDA database, there are currently more than 135 drugs in shortage, with medical devices also in short supply. A recent U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs report found that drug shortages in the U.S. increased 30% between 2021 and 2022. The report also found that "more than 15 critical drug products have been in shortage for over a decade."

The U.S. has endured drug shortages for some 20 years, and, unfortunately, little has changed during that time. Headlines about critical drug shortages certainly feel both more frequent and more serious. Headlines such as "Cancer drug shortages could put chemo patient

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treatment at risk," and "U.S. cancer drug shortage forces doctors to ration life-saving treatments" highlight not only the scarcity of chemotherapy drugs but also shortages of other life-saving medicines and even emergency room (ER) supplies.

What's particularly troubling is that while supply chain-related shortages in many other areas have eased, those related to drugs and medical supplies have become worse, suggesting a problem that is endemic.

While pharmaceutical and medical device companies' approach to inventory and foreign outsourcing, coupled with supply chain disruptions, are to blame, a closer look at Wall Street uncovers the root of a much deeper problem. All of this was predictable, and it has come at a high cost.

CureVac Puts More Patent Claims on the Table in Its COVID Vaccine Suits Against Pfizer and BioNTech

Fierce Pharma reported:

CureVac is adding fuel to its COVID-19 vaccine patent fire by asserting more claims against Pfizer and BioNTech in both its U.S. and German cases.

The German mRNA specialist put a tenth patent on the table in its U.S. litigation and three more to its five in Germany, expanding the scope of the disputes.

CureVac went after BioNTech in Germany last summer, starting off with four claims and adding a fifth in May. The original patents it claimed its fellow German mRNA maker stepped on related to inventions considered "essential to the design and development" of BioNTech and Pfizer's Comirnaty, including sequence modifications and mRNA vaccine formulations, the company noted in a statement at the time.

Its lawsuit doesn't aim to stop the production and distribution of the shot but wants recognition and royalties from past and future sales. That likely puts $500 million on the line, Berenberg Capital Markets analyst Zhiqiang Shu projected in a note to clients last July.

Biden Administration to Provide Free COVID Vaccines to Uninsured Americans This Fall Through End of 2024

CNBC reported:

The Biden administration on Thursday announced a program to provide free COVID vaccines to uninsured Americans through December 2024 after the federal government's supply of shots runs out this fall.

Those free shots, which the government is purchasing at a discount, will be available to the uninsured at pharmacies and 64 state and local health departments.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services also is hoping vaccine makers will donate shots to pharmacies as part of the program.

Currently, the government has an inventory of vaccines purchased from three manufacturers, Pfizer, Moderna and Novavax, and those companies do not sell the shots to healthcare providers. In the fall, the companies will begin selling shots directly to health providers, and the government's supply is expected to run out.

Lilly to Buy Versanis, Adding to Obesity Drug Pipeline

BioPharma Dive reported:

Eli Lilly has agreed to acquire privately held biotechnology company Versanis in a deal that will add an experimental antibody to Lilly's pipeline of medicines for obesity.

The companies did not disclose a purchase price but said in a statement Friday that upfront and milestone payments by Lilly to Versanis shareholders could be worth as much as $1.9 billion.

Founded in 2021 by Aditum Bio, Versanis is built around a drug licensed by Novartis. The antibody, called bimagrumab, is designed to block cellular communication via two types of protein regulators and is being studied in people who are overweight or obese.

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The Defender Staff

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Darby O'Gill
2 days ago

"Biden Administration to Provide Free COVID Vaccines to Uninsured Americans This Fall Through End of 2024". Allow me to correct this sentence:

Biden Administration to Provide FREE, INEFFECTIVE , DANGEROUS, COVID Vaccines to UNINFORMED, AMERICAN SUCKERS This Fall Through the End of 2024. TAKE AT YOUR OWN RISK !!!

6 0 Reply • Share ›

Diane Chase Darby O'Gill
a day ago

Not to mention the fact that the vaccine was designed for a virus that is now extinct.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

Paul Hastilow
2 days ago

I Read and Digested All of these 7 Articles, related to the Woes of these Pharmaceutical issues..
And then I thought to myself…."So What…..who Cares?"
How about we cure the Cause…?
I am referring to the Cause of the Ailment in Patients…!
Not the cause, of Big Pharma, losing $illions due to Availability or Production
Of Drugs that "Perpetuate the Problems".

Obesity and Diabetes are self inflicted....! Cancer can be cured, when our Bodies have an Alkaline Diet and our ph is above 7.2
Cancer thrives in an Acidic state, caused by sugar and Additives including aspartame , that is found in “Processed Foods” and Fast Foods that give you a ph of 5 or 6.
It’s All about Life Style. Regular Exercise and Eating Healthy Fresh Fruit and Vegetables, Reduce Red Meat, and Alcohol
Google a List of Alkaline Foods.
Avocado, Almonds, Broccoli, cauliflower,Kale, there are plenty.
If you are Coffee freak, use Organic Honey and unsweetened Almond milk
Or Coconut Milk.
Our Bodies are our Temple..... Big Pharma, want to Tare it Down, keep you sick and Dependant on their Poisons.
I had Squamous Cell Skin Cancer, 10 yrs Ago, They had to Remove my left eye and Lymph Nodes down to my left collar bone.
I changed my eating habits, and used Medicinal Marijuana..... I’m still Here spreading the Word. 69 yrs of Young, fit as a fiddle,
IVERMECTIN beats Big Pharma every time.
Don’t get sucked in with “Free Death Shots”

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Dulcie Cantarella → Paul Hastilow
2 days ago

The measles fear again and in yesteryear measles and scarlet fever were on the same trajectory downwards and there was no vaccine for scarlet fever. Pharma wins again! They do not know what causes health problems but it is NOT the vaccines! Does that make sense? It does not to me! If you do not know then how can you say it is not the vaccines?

0 0 Reply • Share ›

Tony Mak → Dulcie Cantarella
2 days ago

"There's going to be a measles outbreak if MMR uptake doesn't pick up". I believe that to be a threat, the who have got form. It happened in Samoa not that many years ago, when two babies died at a clinic directly after a shot. The PM announced all shots to be suspended. The who sent investigators, magically finding the clinic nurses had inadvertantly mixed a phial of muscle relaxant with the vaccine, instead of water ! One of the nurses jailed. MMR uptake dropped like a stone, then follows measles epidemic. You probably won't see this an any historical news items, at the time there were quite a number of articles, even on their local TV. I looked probably the year after for some reference or other, but found them mostly missing. I believe it was 2018. It might be on Del Bigtree Highwire, that was where I first saw it.

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Dan
2 days ago

The correction was needed. The Defender Staff seemed to take a most unusual turn today, linking articles with a pro pharmaceutical corporation slant. What is going on?

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John Stone Mod → Dan
2 days ago

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drw22
2 days ago

Not that I think people should be taking all those pharmaceutical drugs, but if there is a shortage, then other manufacturers should be allowed to step in and make up the shortage. That would get the companies to make the needed quantities.

0 0 Reply • Share ›

drw22
2 days ago

There are 128 cases of measles in the UK, but there is a risk of 160,000 cases? Does that compare to the threats that there would be millions dead from Covid?

0 0 Reply • Share ›

Tony Mak ■ ➔ drw22

2 days ago

There is a risk of some sort of outbreak. I read some years back of an outbreak which centered around Disney world in Florida. The thing was the majority of cases were found to be based on the measles type found in the vaccine. You have to ask yourself, "was this a practice run at starting an epidemic, maybe just because the uptake of the vaccine was a bit slow ?" Nah, they wouldn't do that, surely ?

1 0 Reply • Share ›

Dulcie Cantarella ■ ➔ drw22

2 days ago

From the covid vaccine, you mean? It seems the vaccine did more damage than the lab created virus! Go figure! Trust in the medical experts is not what it used to be.

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